Key And Important Issues Of Future Earth In Asia

Tetsuzo YASUNARI[#+]
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan
[#]Corresponding author: yasunari@chikyu.ac.jp [+]Presenter

Future Earth is a global research platform designed to provide the knowledge needed to support society's transformation to a sustainable world, organized by the international science communities (ICSU and ISSC), related United Nation Programmes (UNEP, UNESCO, UNU and WMO) and IGFA/Belmont Forum of inter-governmental funding agencies for global environmental change research as shown here. We seek to build and connect global knowledge to increase the impact of research and to find new ways to accelerate transitions to sustainable development. Future Earth will contribute to achieving the goals of the high level UN General Assembly resolutions on global sustainability, as articulated at the 2012 Rio+20 Summit and subsequently. Future Earth will work with partners in society to co-develop the knowledge needed to support decision makers and societal change by focusing on three Research Themes – Dynamic planet, Global sustainable development and Transformations towards sustainability.

Here, I would like to emphasize the important role of Future Earth particularly in Asia. This region as a whole is characterized by rapid population and economic growth and urbanization, where great disparities of wealth both within and between countries, and social and ecological vulnerability to the potential impacts of climate change are increasing. Associated with this rapid population & economic growth, this region has become a huge hot-spot of greenhouse gas increase, air and water pollutions, affecting regional to global climate change. In addition, this region is located in the midst of monsoon climate and the huge active tectonic zone. These natural conditions cause high frequency of natural disasters and large-scale air/water pollutions, but also provide rich natural resources for agriculture & fisheries and industries. The science community and society, therefore, should tightly collaborate particularly in Asia to establish sustainable societies there. In other words, without achieving sustainable future of Asia, we cannot achieve global sustainability. Thus, transdisciplinary research should be promoted under the Future Earth initiative, particularly in Asia, including the effort of co-design/co-production by scientists, engineers and relevant stakeholders.